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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Italy

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SUBJECT Soviet Negotiations for Purchase of Tugboats

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Six tugboats which have been constructed by the Odermo-Termi-Orlando (OTO) Shipyards at Muggiano (La Spezia) for the Soviet Union, lie at anchor in Ligurian waters. The six vessels are to be loaded on a Russian ship which is scheduled to arrive in Italy from Sakharin Island in the Far East.
2. Further Soviet negotiations for the construction of tugboats have been reported as follows:
 - a. The draft of a contract for the construction of 25 tugboats, similar to those already built, is being prepared by the management of the OTO Company; and
 - b. A contract for the construction of ten tugboats is being prepared by the owner of the Apuania Shipyards of Marina di Massa. A certain Mark Konnov, a Russian citizen, born at Ulianowski 20 January 1917, a resident of Moscow, holding passport No. 32519 issued at Moscow 12 May 1948, visited La Spezia on 24 September 1948 and 18 and 31 October 1948 to carry out negotiations for the signing of contracts for the construction of these ten tugboats.
3. Konnov, accompanied by one Leonid Gritsai, a Russian engineer, visited Milan for about 20 days. It is believed that they went to Milan to purchase about sixty motors for seacraft from the Alfa Romeo Company for the Soviet Union. These motors reportedly will not be used for the above-mentioned tugboats, but will be sent to Russia and fitted on other vessels. In exchange for these motors, the Soviet Government will allegedly supply the Fiat and Alfa Romeo companies with metal scrap.

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